# THE VETERINARY RECORD

**A Weekly Journal for the Profession.**

EDITED BY WILLIAM HUNTING, F.R.C.V.S.

No. 111. SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1890. VOL. III.


## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Dyer, almost in despair, writes us again on the subject of a Code of Ethics and this time widens his view so as to embrace more things than horse-dealing. We fear he misunderstood one of our notes; we did not mean to say that the practice of horse-dealing "occupied a lower grade," than the practice of Veterinary Surgery. We meant to say that the question of combining the two was not so much a matter of Ethics as expediency, and that therefore *the question* "occupied a lower grade." With a great deal of what Mr. Dyer says we quite agree and we heartily echo his hope to "still live to see the conduct of our noble profession such as shall enable it to take its proper place in Society." What is its proper place? Just what its members can grasp and maintain. To the various levels of the social standard neither men nor callings are invited. They are attained only by a hard and constant fight in which those succeed who are best fitted for the surroundings. The profession will rise just as the individual members rise. Most of us would like to rise, but the necessity of existence comes before the vanities of ambition and we must often do work which is not dignified. It is quite possible for a Veterinary Surgeon to have tastes and education and sympathies which would ensure him a decent place in society if he had £500 a year, but such a man without independent means is quite out of touch with the larger numbers of men who might be clients. The best clients are the most difficult to get, consequently a beginner has to put up with those he can find. The best educated and most gentlemanly man has therefore the worst chance, and when he has no capital he must have a great store of patience.

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The communications we have published on "Practice *v.* Theory," "Success in Practice," "College Training," or whatever term is most suitable, have all seemed to us to miss recognition of the strong points on the other side. A practical man is a very admirable person when he does in a workmanlike manner something he knows is good for the animal. He may then fairly claim to be a good practitioner. But suppose he does in a workmanlike manner something that no modern surgeon would allow was good for the animal. Suppose he very neatly fired the coronets for navicular disease, or the back tendons because the knees were bent, or adopted phlebotomy for influenza. The public would not blame him, he would obtain credit for his manual dexterity, and the client's notions of therapeutics would be at least as hazy as his own. His professional brethren would know he was an ignoramus quite as dangerous as the new-fledged graduate who failed to hold a bullock properly, but luckily not ignorant of those points on which the client only is able to judge. Success in practice does not depend very much on a man's knowing his business when that business is a mystery to other men. Success depends much more upon the possession of tact and knowledge of men than upon science and knowledge of pathology. Clients only employ experts because they don't know themselves, and therefore an expert should be as clever in disguising his ignorance as displaying his knowledge. The man who expects a new-fledged graduate to give the same satisfaction to clients as is given by the older and more astute practitioner, expects too much. College training cannot give a young man tact, nor inspire him with much confidence in front of a cunning and suspicious client who fancies that he himself knows nearly everything. A practical training every practitioner must have at some time. If he obtains it before going to College, in 90 per cent. of cases he looks upon all school teaching as a nuisance and superfluity. If he gets the diploma he manages to forget most of his science in a few months. On the other hand a man who sees no practice outside of a college until he has obtained the diploma has many things to learn, which for a year or two will occasion him much worry and perhaps some loss. What is wanted for a good practitioner is a proper proportion of practice and theory. As Lawson Tait pointed out, surgery is more an art than a science, and it is quite as necessary to see that a man's hands are trained as it is to insist upon his knowing something of the latest pathological theories.

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## PROFESSIONAL HONOUR.

In the last number of the *Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics* we find an editorial article on "The Operative Treatment of Roaring." In it the strange discrepancies which exist between the results of the operation as stated by the official returns of the War Office and the results as stated by Dr. Fleming are referred to as follows:—

"We say that these discrepancies are calculated to strike one with astonishment. It would be vain to attempt to explain them. A simple explanation would be that Dr. Fleming, not knowing that the official records of the operations were to be submitted to inspection, deliberately falsified the results,

but everyone will agree with us that the supposition is almost incredible, and certainly not to be entertained so long as any other explanation is possible."

It is nearly two months since this was written, and no other explanation has yet been offered. Is it too much to ask a prominent member of the profession to offer the explanation, absence of which leaves such a terrible alternative?

The discrepancies are as under:—

| No. | Result as stated by Dr. Fleming on oath. | Result as shewn by official returns. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sold by auction | Incurable |
| 2 | ,, | ,, |
| 18 | Destroyed | ,, |
| 19 | Cured, sold by auction | ,, |
| 20 | ,, ,, | ,, |
| 22 | ,, ,, | ,, |
| 23 | Sold by auction | ,, |
| 25 | Cured, sold by auction | ,, |
| 26 | ,, ,, | ,, |
| 27 | Destroyed | ,, |
| 28 | ,, | ,, |
| 30 | Sold by auction | ,, |
| 31 | ,, | ,, |
| 37 | Cured, sold by auction | ,, |
| 38 | ,, ,, | ,, |
| 39 | Sold by auction | ,, |
| 44 | Cured | Roarer |
| 50 | Sold by auction | Sold on account of roaring |
| 51 | ,, | Incurable |
| 60 | Died | Died from suffocation |
| 66 | Cured, sold by auction | Sold on account of confirmed roaring |

Discrepancy is a mild word to apply to some of these contradictions. When one man says a horse is "cured," and another says it is incurable, no explanation is possible—one of them is—well, *wrong*.

A man may make a mis-statement accidentally, he is not to be blamed: a man may write an untruth and be forgiven when he apologizes: a man may deliberately swear to what he knows is untrue. Can Dr. Fleming rest contented to leave the profession to guess which of these offences he has committed? Can the profession permit his silence?

## CASES AND ARTICLES.

### OSTEO-POROSIS.

I should like to bring before your notice the following interesting case. The subject was a five-year old pony, and at the time was very bad with rheumatism, for which it was going under the usual treatment (Salic. Ac. etc.). On going to see the case one Monday morning I noticed there was a great swelling on the face, extending from the lachrymal bones to the commencement of the nasal bones, also a swelling on the lower jaw. On examination of the face I found it was a bony swelling, and at once diagnosed the case as osteo-porosis, which, I believe, is very rare in this country.

Mr. Robinson, the veterinary surgeon with whom I am seeing practice, has now seen the disease six times, and I notice that Prof. Williams, in his "Surgery," mentions that he is greatly indebted to Mr. Robinson for his information on the subject.

I may mention we kept the pony a few days and then bled from the carotid, in order to keep the specimen of the head complete. The said specimen is a very good one, shewing the osteo-porosis very distinctly. I hope some of your correspondents who have seen the disease lately will give their opinion on it. B. A. F.

*(Student with Alexander Robinson, F.R.C.V.S., Greenock).*

### UNSOUND HOCKS,

By R. C. Irving, F.R.C.V.S.

With, perhaps, the exception of "wind" no point in the examination of horses is more difficult to clearly determine than the exact condition of hocks. We find variations in the form and size of horses' feet, heads and hocks quite within the range of soundness. Diseased conditions are sometimes so clear and definite that no one can possibly make a mistake; but the processes of disease are not sudden, they are slow and of indefinite extent, some of the changes are so slight that even if horses' bodies were formed on geometrical patterns they might well give rise to differences of opinion as to their existence.

The hock joint possesses an irregularity of outline and surface quite unique. It is therefore less easy to detect changes of form in this part than in others, and after detecting them it is often very difficult to determine their nature and estimate their importance. "Curbs," "thorough-pins," "bog-spavins," and swellings resulting from injury. are all conditions which cause irregularity in the form of hocks. The deviation in form varies from large, tangible swellings to the most infinitesimal alteration of a line or a surface. To estimate the importance of these changes is the duty of the veterinary surgeon when examining for soundness, and the mere amount of deviation from what we consider the normal form is very little guide to us. We have to consider the amount of change which has taken place, the position of the change, and whether it is stationary or progressive. Even then we can form a very imperfect estimate of its importance until we see the animal move, and after all our care it is quite possible that our opinion may be falsified when the effects of work are brought to bear. Our difficulties are chiefly due to the legal definition of the word "soundness," and to the practical requirements of our clients. We are employed to assist our clients in the purchase of a horse which will remain useful for the work which they require. They care nothing for any "departure from the normal" so long as it does not interefere with the horse's usefulness and value. When a horse goes lame shortly after having

been "passed sound" the purchaser not unnaturally feels annoyed, and is quite willing to find some one on whom to throw the blame. Even if the horse never fails to do his work, but for some cause is "for sale" and the would-be purchaser discovers a defect, then again the examining V.S. is blamed. Some of the very soundest hocks are to be found on the very worst of horses, and some of the most "unsound" horses are the best performers and most useful of animals. In the examination of horses, as in every other business, the most careful observer, the man of most varied and extensive experience—and the man of most tact—will be most successful. Success in examinations of horses requires two things—to please your client and to evade responsibility. It is not sufficient to be able to detect unsoundness and to appraise it properly. You must have tact and caution in expressing your opinion. An ignorant client is the great difficulty and danger. To tell such a man that a horse has a splint and is therefore unsound is right and true, but it may prevent him buying a horse most suitable for his work. When the client is a horseman it is easy to frame an opinion which recognises our responsibility and the legal meaning of unsoundness but does not frighten him from his purchase. Such a man may safely be told that the horse has "an enlargement on one hock which is not likely to do any harm." It is very easy to say a horse is simply "sound" or "unsound," using the terms in a strictly legal sense, but such a course can only lead to trouble, for it must inevitably prevent clients from obtaining useful horses.

But I am wandering from the subject I wish specially to discuss—hocks. In a short article like this it would be absurd to try to examine all the defects of hocks, and therefore I shall confine my remarks entirely to the defect of Bone Spavin. I will take if for granted that we all recognise well developed spavins, are agreed that they are unsoundnesses, and that in only a very few cases are we justified in giving an opinion that they will not interfere with the horse's usefulness.

There are two conditions of hock about which diversity of opinion may exist. One condition is where an enlargement is seen situated low down and far back, symmetrical on both hocks. It is hardly visible when the hock is looked at from a position alongside the horse's shoulder but it is quite conspicuous when the view is taken from behind the horse. These cases I do not call spavins. I hold that they are not abnormal, but that they are the natural conformation of the hocks and therefore not unsoundness. I have never seen them cause lameness, and more often than not they are associated with extra good hock-action. The other condition is the enlargement found on the ordinary seat of spavin, and known as "coarse hocks." This condition I take to be simply extra development of the cuneiform ridges. This condition is seldom seen except in large clean hocks. Both hocks are alike, and the space between the upper and lower ridges can be felt. If a space cannot be felt we have no right to form an opinion that the enlargement is only a "coarse hock." Between a small spavin and a "coarse hock" I know of no distinction except the detection of the groove between the cuneiform ridges. A small spavin is usually the worst kind because it has not reached maturity, and although not a cause of lameness at the time of examination may become so at any time as the result of work.

I recognise these two conditions in which an unusual enlargement may exist on the lower part of the inside of a horse's hock; one is unsoundness—spavin, the other is not unsoundness—'coarse' hocks.

Too often this distinction is over-looked, and we speak of small enlargements indiscriminately as "coarse" or "rough" hocks. This ought not to be. The two conditions are different in their nature, and should be distinctly separated in any expression of our opinion. To describe a small spavin as a "coarse" hock is wrong, and adds to the confusion in the minds of men who are selling or buying horses. If we have a normal and innocent enlargement of the surface of bone we may call it "coarse." If we have an abnormal enlargement which affects the articulation of bones we should call it spavin. I quite recognise the gravity which attaches always to the word spavin, and acknowledge that in cases when our opinion is that the condition is not likely to be detrimental we may rightly refrain from using it. But we should not substitute the term "coarse hock." The difficulty can be met more correctly by calling the condition an enlargement.

Irish horses are often said to have "coarse" hocks. My experience teaches me they have spavins, and the utter disregard for hocks shown by most Irish sellers of horses is too likely to perpetuate the defect. Familiarity with the unsoundness induces a sort of contempt for it which must re-act badly upon breeders, who go on breeding from animals with this hereditary defect undeterred by a pronounced public opinion.

I hold strongly that the terms "rough" and "coarse" as applied to hocks should only be used to designate those joints presenting well developed cuneiform ridges, and should never be applied to spavins however small and apparently harmless. We should strictly define terms; and I may here express my regret on reading Professor Axe's paper on "Examination of Horses" to find that he has so vaguely and indefinitely defined "Coarse hocks." He says—"Rough or coarse hocks as they are termed, by which we mean joints characterised by great size and lumpy or irregular surfaces." Now coarse hocks need not be of "great size"; and lumpy or irregular surfaces" may be the result of injury, may be on the outside of the joint, and need not constitute "coarseness" at all.

We must be exact in our use of terms or we shall never get out of the muddled condition which the examination of horses seems to produce in the minds of horse-buyers, veterinarians and lawyers.

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The Berlin Veterinary College has just celebrated the centenary of its foundation with great ceremony. The Minister of Agriculture presented an oil-painting of the Emperor, the gift of his Majesty, and various congratulatory speeches were delivered.

## SCROTAL HERNIA IN A COLT,

### Operation—Recovery.

By P. S. Bond, M.R.C.V.S. Plymouth,

On June 5th, I operated on a 2 year old (entire) colt for Scrotal Hernia. The rupture which was the size of a man's head, was on the near side. Having cast the animal with ordinary colt ropes, the rupture was put back, the scrotum with testicle was well gathered up, and secured with an ordinary wooden clam without caustic (kept close up to the abdomen), and left to slough off, which it did in about 3 weeks. The part was then dressed daily with carbolised oil (5 per cent), in order to keep the flies from irritating it during the subsequent healing. The portion which was allowed to slough away was between 3lb. and 4lb. in weight.

The operation proved to be successful in every way, as there is not the slightest trace of a rupture having existed, and the colt which has been broken to harness, has worked on the farm constantly since July 28th.

The above is Prof. Williams' mode of operating.

I send you this because cases of Scrotal Hernia are not frequently met with, but when they do occur I feel sure that the method adopted is the safest.

## LACERATION OF FLEXOR METATARSI.

By J. Malcolm, F.R.C.V.S., Birmingham.

Well marked cases of laceration of the Flexor Metatarsi appear to be very rare. In 12 years active practice I have never met with it until to-day, and even for seeing this case I am indebted to a brother practitioner.

Last night I received a communication from him asking for a consultation this morning. On arriving at his place I found the subject of consultation was a 12 year old Welsh mare about 13 hands high. She had been brought on the previous day to the forge to be shod and was then apparently all right. Being a particularly vicious "kicker" it was the regular custom to shoe her in the "brake" and as usual she was put into the "brake" on this occasion. She struggled freely but not more than at previous times, and no apprehension that any injury had occurred was entertained until she was loosened out of the "brake" when she exhibited marked lameness in the near hind leg. On examination this morning there was an apparent swelling on the anterior surface of the limb from the stifle to the foot, but most marked midway between the stifle and the hock. There was no swelling on the posterior surface. She could stand fairly level, and bear weight very well on the lame leg. On being moved forward however she at once showed the peculiar diagnostic lameness seen in laceration and paralyses of the flexor metatarsi muscle, the foot when raised from the ground being jerked upwards and backwards with considerable force, thus relaxing the tendo achilles which fell into a number of apparent folds and produced the characteristic appearance so well illustrated in Williams' Surgery. The result of the treatment I shall be pleased to record later on.

## SHOULD LATIN BE OPTIONAL.

In my opinion Latin is one of the most important subjects for a student. The following are my reasons;—

In the first place, Latin is the generally accepted language for scientific terms. There is scarcely any science a student can take up without finding himself immediately surrounded with Latin names. How can he possibly use these in concord unless he has been grounded in the grammar of the language? Let us take one or two examples. As soon as he enters college the student takes up among other things Botany, and he finds that scientifically nearly all plants are called by Latin names, and if he be entirely ignorant of the language, in addition to the fact of all the names appearing strange to the ear and difficult to remember, he is struck with apparent anomalies in the endings of the words, such as Festuca pratens*is* and Phleum pratens*e*. Such variations are totally inexplicable to him. But it is in Anatomy particularly that he is most at a loss, and here we find him making hopeless blunders and exposing his ignorance in almost every sentence he utters. I might give examples of this *ad infinitum:* but one will suffice. In *The Veterinary Journal* for the present month a gentleman in a scientific paper talks about administering medicine "per orem"; now by the context I imagine he meant 'by the mouth.' If such be his meaning I should like to point out that "per os" is the correct way of putting it, for os being a neuter noun does not alter in the accusative. Such a mistake naturally takes off 50 per cent of value of any paper.

I do not hesitate to say that there is not a subject in the whole of the College Curriculum in which the student may not find Latin useful.

Mr. Atkinson argues that, seeing that Latin is useful only in as much as it cultivates the mind, and that as the matriculation does not require a sufficiently high standard to do this to any extent, therefore it is useless. But I think from what I have said before that I have proved his argument is built on false premises.

He also says that a knowledge of Greek would be much more valuable to the student to enable him to understand the terms in Anatomy and other sciences. Here again I disagree with him. Although I admit there are a great number of words derived from Greek in Anatomy and Pathology, especially the latter, yet with few exceptions these terms are simply derived, and are not taken direct from the Greek, and by being Anglicized have lost the variations in gender, number, and case, which are so troublesome to the student in the real Latin words met with in Anatomy.

It is a poor argument to say, "Why not talk in plain English"? My only answer is that centuries of use have justified the Latin nomenclature and we must bow to the inevitable.

I can personally testify, although I have a far from deep knowledge of Latin, that I have found what I do know most useful. Nor does the use of Latin end when the student obtains his diploma. A veterinary surgeon who knows no Latin is always liable to become the laughing-stock of the chemist's assistant, or the amusement of clients and other scientific men, when he attempts to expatiate in scientific terms on the nature or seat of any ailment.

M.R.C.V.S.

## THE VETERINARY DEFENCE SOCIETY

### As a "Settling" Society.

The above sneer has been cast at our Society by some who say that *on principle we should defend every case*, meet every case in the Court, and fight it out. In my paper on Murdock's case I shewed the exceedingly unsatisfactory result of fighting a case in which you had not a leg to stand on. The advocates of this heroic system are for the most part non-members of our society, who have never been members, and never taken the slightest interest in it. They know as much of its internal working and the difficulties we have to contend with as the man living in Timbuctoo, but their minds seem to take a pleasure in fomenting discontent, and annoyance? Now we have had considerable experience in these kind of cases, we have found to our cost the uncertainty of the law. It is said experience is a dear school but fools will learn in no other. Now we have learned our lesson, and the knowledge we possess satisfied us that when our Council have carefully examined a case in its various phases and are of opinion that there are many doubtful or weak points in it, that where we have nothing but uncertainty and very probably complete failure staring us in the face, it far better to settle it amongst ourselves amicably than to leave it to be settled by Magistrates, a Judge or a Jury after it has been wrangled over by Solicitors, or Counsel and Judge, none of which probably possesses any sound horse knowledge. Such a settlement always entailing great cost, and bitter estrangement

I could give many instances where cases have been defended and resulted in lamentable failure and loss? loss of credit, loss of customer, and loss of money; cases in which members of our society have been hauled up for damages—before and since Murdock's case—because he gave an honest opinion in an examination, but I will leave this heroic fighting method of settlement to those who take a pleasure in fighting, and will give a few instances which, since the power was given to us, we have conducted to a successful, amicable and honourable settlement.

No. 1. In Liverpool in 1876 a Veterinary Surgeon was sued for laming a horse in shoeing, and neglect; damages laid at £45. It went on for trial, we had all our forces in battle array, counsel. solicitor, a number of witnesses, and veterinary surgeons, the other side the same; a whole day was spent in Court, but it did not come on for hearing. In coming down the stairs from the Court, our President, Mr. Taylor, who was by my side, said in a loud tone of voice so that the plaintiff, who was close-to, could hear him, *whoever wins it will cost a lot of brass;* after this we were introduced to the plaintiff and in a very short time by straight-forward, respectful, business-like arguments, the plaintiff meeting us in a kindly, gentlemanly manner, we came to an amicable settlement in full of all demands for about one third of the original claim. Claimant and defendant shook hands.

No. 2. In Birmingham in 1885, a Veterinary Surgeon was sued for injury to a horse. The horse was cast for firing hocks without owner's knowledge or consent; being an old horse he broke his back in his struggles. The claim was for £50, all the paraphernalia of law was set to work, it was going on for trial; our council felt it to be a very unsatisfactory and doubtful case, and foreseeing no probability of a favourable issue decided to send a deputation to see the horse, the defendant and the plaintiff. We were told that the plaintiff was a most unreasonable, intractable man, that he would very likely refuse to see us, or would insult us, and order us out of his office. We introduced ourselves in a straight-forward, respectful and business-like manner, he received us courteously and gentlemanly; after a while we ventured to show him the weak points in his case; he came down one half at one stroke, and after about two hours temperate and firm argument we settled it with him for £6 10s. in full of all demands.

No. 3. In London in 1884 a Veterinary Surgeon was sued for £50 for injury to a horse, a writ was served, it was going on for trial. Our council seeing the weakness of our case determined to try and avoid a trial, since we could only see one result—failure. We were told the plaintiff was a foreigner, a doctor, very eccentric and passionate; that he would not see us; if he did he would be sure to insult us and to turn us out; we introduced ourselves to him in a straight-forward, respectful and business-like manner; he received us in a courteous and gentlemanly manner—treatment we meet with in every case—he said now I can listen to you gentlemen. but the defendant set me at defiance. he set his back against the wall, told me he would never pay me one sixpence towards my loss. After about one hour's firm and temperate argument he settled his claim in full of all demands for £7.

No. 4. In 1886, a Veterinary Surgeon of Liverpool was sued for laming a valuable horse in his forge, and neglecting her afterwards. The council carefully considered the case, and decided it would not be wise to defend it, since it looked weak and very doubtful in several points. We advised that an attempt should be made to settle it out of Court, this the defendant strongly objected to. On principle, he said, it should be fought and defended, he suggested that the society should allow him £10,

and that he would fight it out himself, so confident was he that he could get a verdict in his favour This application was consented to by the committee, the trial went on, he lost it, costing him three times the amount. He applied for a new trial, but his application was refused. So much for taking our cases to a higher Court as recommended by Professor Pritchard.

No. 5. In Liverpool in 1886, a Veterinary Surgeon of Preston was sued for £35, the value of a mare examined by defendant's assistant, and bought on the faith of his opinion. A writ was issued, the opinion of our council was that the case looked very fishy, and they determined that a deputation should see the horse, the defendant, his assistant, the seller and also the plaintiff. Our President and myself went to Preston, saw defendant, his assistant, and called twice to see the seller, but were unable to meet with him. We then went to Liverpool and saw the plaintiff, who received us very courteously, he took us 12 miles to see the mare, and back. Plaintiff showed us he purchased the mare to breed from, and to do a little work, and that he had requested the person who had examined her to be very particular as to her fore feet and wind. Well we found this mare very lame on both fore feet, a permanent lameness, she was aged, was 17 hands high, had a Roman nose, and was the rankest roarer you ever heard. We considered it would be worse than madness to allow this case to go into Court, principle or no principle. We argued the point with moderation and firmness and in the end he settled it in an amicable and honourable manner for £10 in full of all demands. I would ask do not justice and equity both demand that reparation should be made in such cases. Our President and myself travelled over 100 miles and spent the whole day at our own cost; and as we returned to our homes we consoled ourselves that we had saved the reputation of the Profession by avoiding the exposure and disgrace; more than that we had saved our Society *more than ten times that amount, of its funds.* Now I ask is there a man with a calm and sensible mind, not tainted by prejudice, with any generous instinct in his nature who will sneer at us and twit us as being "A settling Society" when he sees plainly the great advantage of acting as we have done. My motto is—Be just, and fear not.

THOS. GREAVES, F.R.C.V.S.

## VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

### ROYAL COUNTIES VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held at the "Clarendon" Hotel, Oxford, on Friday 25th July, 1890. A Wheatley, Esq., President, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members together with a few visitors. Mr. F. W. Willett, M.R.C.V.S. of Staines, was unanimously elected a member of the Association.

The following report of the Conference of the Presidents and Secretaries of the various Associations, held on the 5th of May last, was read. The Conference was held to determine whether it was possible to have dates fixed by mutual consent for meetings of the different Associations.

Mr. ALBERT WHEATLEY, President of this Association occupied the chair.

The following Associations were represented viz.:—The Central, The Midland Counties, The Border Counties, The Lancashire, The Yorkshire, and The Southern Counties. Regret was expressed that other Associations were not represented, especially The North of England, as it was in a great measure to meet the wishes of that Association that the Royal Counties had arranged the Conference. After discussion the following suggested dates were approved by the Conference:

| SOCIETY. | APPROVED DATES. |
|---|---|
| Border Counties... | First Friday of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. |
| Central ... ... | First Thursday monthly except Aug. and Sept. |
| Eastern Counties | Second Wednesday, Feb. and July |
| Lancashire ... ... | Second Wednesday, Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. |
| Lincolnshire ... | Second Thursday, Feb., June & Oct. |
| Midland Counties | Second Friday, Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. |
| North of England | Third Friday, Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. |
| Royal Counties ... | Last Friday, Feb., June and Nov. |
| South Durham and North Yorkshire | First Friday, Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. |
| Southern Counties | Last Thursday, Mar., June and Sept. |
| Western Counties | Third Thursday, Mar., and Sept. |
| Yorkshire ... ... | Last Friday, Jan., April, July and Oct. |

The next business was to consider by request certain resolutions which were passed by the CentralAssociation in March last.

I. "That this meeting whilst recognising the possibility of animals other than the dog becoming the media of spreading rabies is of opinion that in a large majority of cases, if not the whole, the development of this malady is due to the dog."

This was approved of by 16 to 2.

II. "That from abundant evidence gathered in our profession this meeting finds that effective muzzling is the most reliable method of stamping out the disease."

This was approved by 15 to 1.

III. "It is advisable that all imported dogs be subjected to a quarantine of six months."

This was approved by 14 to 3.

IV. "That partial or local muzzling of dogs for the prevention or erdication of rabies is inadequate."

This was unanimously approved.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the question "A New Charter, is it needed"?

Professor AXE of the Royal Veterinary College, gave a lecture on "The Examination of Horses as to Soundness—its difficulties and responsibilities."

(This has already appeared, p 68. Vol. III.)

#### DISCUSSION.

Mr. WALKER, (Oxford), said that he was not going to discuss Prof. Axe's excellent paper at length. It was a question which required calm and thorough discussion. He wished that Professor Axe had made it clear what was soundness and what constituted unsoundness. Unfortunately, there is always a diversity of opinion upon that point, and he was afraid it was a question which would have to remain open, until the profession in general made the point clear.

Mr. FLANAGAN said that they were indebted to Prof.

Axe for his excellent and carefully prepared paper. The matters contained in it were truths known to most of them with reference to the action of horses the remarks contained in the paper were those with which he entirely agreed. Action was guided and produced to a very considerable extent—probably more than they would give credit for—by formation.

Mr. MELLETT said he thought it was a question for the profession to decide as to whether a horse with a splint or curb should be passed as sound.

Mr. SIMPSON, (Maidenhead), did not propose to attempt to decide against his brother practioners as to what was or was not unsoundness, he wished rather to refer to the actions which had lately been taken by persons against Veterinary Surgeons who had examined horses prior to their purchase, and the adverse decisions of the Judges as regards the Veterinary Surgeons. In the first place he ventured to say, that one half of these cases would never see a Court of Law, if it were not for the advice given by members of our own profession. There was a class of practitioners—and some of them holding high positions, so far as extent of practice was concerned—who were never more delighted then when called on for an opinion, to be able to say "There has been negligence here" or "This splint *must* have existed when you had the horse examined," &c. Then again there were unfortunately, veterinary surgeons who would venture to advise gentlemen that the neglect of their every-day attendant to point out what in their opinion was an unsoundness fully justified the said gentlemen in at once commencing an action for the recovery of damages, and so long as the members of the profession are disloyal to one another there is every encouragement given to clients to bring action against their veterinary advisers. If instead of advocating actions at Law, members of the profession who are called in to give a second opinion would honestly point out to clients that all veterinary surgeons do not attach the same importance to trivial defects, and that even where an unsoundness to a slight extent has been overlooked, the conditions under which the animal was submitted for examination should be considered, these vexatious actions would soon be reduced by at least one-half. Mistakes are made by all of us, but the desire for a little transient notoriety was apt to blind men's eyes to this fact.

Mr. GOODALL agreed with what had fallen from previous speakers with reference to the interesting paper to which they had listened. He offered a few observations on the shapes of horses and asked whether he would be justified in advising a man to buy a horse which had, they would say, a bit of a curb, possibly the result of straining in jumping. He thought young members should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the shapes and makes of horses, and should give their opinions a good deal with regard to the shape which should be borne in mind when making an examination.

On the motion of Mr. WRAGG, seconded by Mr. GOODALL, it was unanimously agreed that the discussion of the paper be deferred until the next meeting of the Association in London, Hearty votes of thanks being accorded to Professor Axe and the President the meeting terminated.

H. KIDD, *Hon. Sec.*

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MORE than 60,000 head of fat bullocks and store cattle are sent to the island home of the Briton every year, and an equal, or larger, number to the United States, although the cattle sent there are not, on the whole, equal in quality to those sent across the Atlantic. Nearly all these go from the province of Ontario, where they are reared.

## EXTRACTS AND NOTES.

### EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY addressed to the *Times* of Tuesday, August 5th, an interesting letter by the way of comment on the address of Dr. Wade, the President of the British Medical Association, at Birmingham.

The following extract deserves the careful attention of our Council.

Those who know what modern medicine is are well aware that four years would be but a brief period of study, even if it could be allotted exclusively to the practical branches of the medical science and art. But in the present condition of middle-class education the youth of 17 too commonly enters the medical school, not only devoid of the slightest tincture of scientific knowledge, but, what is worse, so completely habituated to learn only from books or oral teaching that the attempt to learn from things and to get his knowledge at first hand is something new and strange. Thus a large proportion of medical students spend much of their first year in learning how to learn, and when they have done that, in acquiring the preliminary scientific knowledge, with which, under any rational system of education, they would have come provided.

I am the last person to question the value of a thorough and comprehensive classical education; but I fail to see that there is anything in common between such high intellectual discipline and the process by which young boys are ground up to the pitch of being able to construe some easy Latin or Greek; nor even between a literary knowledge of Latin and so much acquaintance with that tongue as may suffice to turn Celsus into English, or to concoct a prescription in a jargon which would have made a Pompeian apothecary explode.

My complaint is that the present requirements are fatal as much to the literary as to the scientific training of the medical student. The time wasted in forcing upon him a sham acquaintance with Latin should be devoted to teaching him the use of his own language and the right enjoyment of its literary wealth, no less than to the study of science.

I have a great love for our native tongue, and a profound sense of its perfections as an instrument of thought and expression. All my life I have been striving to learn how to use it, and the longer I go on the less easily do I find myself satisfied. But I confess it never occurred to me that I had taken the wrong road and that the way to good English lay through Latin. My impression has been that the genius of the English language is widely different from that of Latin; and that the worst, and most debased kinds of English style are those which ape Latinity. I know of no purer English prose than that of John Bunyan and Daniel Defoe; I doubt if the music of Keats' verse has ever been surpassed; it has not been my fortune to hear any orator who approached the powerful simplicity, the limpid sincerity, of the speach of John Bright. Yet Latin literature and these masters of English had little to do with one another. On the other hand, how easy

would it be, were it not invidious, to cull specimens of everything that is bad in style, of that copious phrasemongering which loses sense in sound, and substitutes passion for force, in the production of minds soaked in classical lore.

Most undoubtedly it is desirable that students of medicine, like other people, should have a sound literary training. They may obtain it and a sound elementary training in science as well before they are 17, if only the Latin fetish ceases to be an object of superstitious reverence on the part of those who determine the conditions of medical education.

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Mr. H. W. Eve, the Head Master of the University College School, also writes to say a few words, from a schoolmaster's point of view, in support of the opinions advocated by Professor Huxley and Dr. Wade. He adds:

Like them, I have no wish whatever to depreciate the maintenance of a high, or even a tolerable, standard of classical education for those who have time and inclination for it. But the attainment of such a standard is absolutely out of the question for the majority of medical students, as it is for a very large number of boys who must leave school about 17. All they can hope to reach—I speak of boys of moderate abilities—is a very limited knowledge of the duller parts of one, and that the less interesting and valuable, of the two classical languages. Nor do they as a rule ever open a Latin book afterwards. The language is to them simply a means of passing an examination; it recommends itself neither by practical utility nor as the key to a great literature. What, then, is the best literary training for boys of average ability, leaving school young, and bound to make a serious study, while still there, of at least one science? I am strongly disposed, as I think I was permitted to say once before in your columns, à *propos* of commercial education, to give the precedence to German. German is the key to vast accumulations of knowledge on all scientific subjects; it has a literature almost as much coloured by Greek influence as that of Rome itself, and it holds out, even to those who possess only a moderate knowledge of it, strong inducements to continue their studies in after-life. Could not the Board of Medical Studies, as a first step, allow German to be taken as an alternative for Latin in their preliminary examination? *British Medical Journal.*

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## BACTERIOLOGY.

### An Address at the International Medical Congress in Berlin:

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Dr. Robert Koch, the distinguished director of the Hygienic Institute in Berlin, declared that he had not much that was new to tell, but he would make a preliminary communication regarding the result of important new experiments. This communication had reference to a remedy for consumption discovered by him, which, however, he would not name till his experiments were ended. The rest of his address was an admirably clear account of the progress of bacteriological research. Only fifteen years ago one regarded the micro-organisms occasionally observed in the bodies of diseased animals and persons more as curiosities than as things essentially connected with the disease. And considering the great ignorance of their nature which then prevailed, this could not but be so; there were investigators, for instance, who declared bacteria to be crystalloid bodies, not living organisms. With the perfecting of the magnifying instruments, the application of staining, the propagation of organisms on nutritive media, culminating soon in pure cultivation, a rapid change took place. It became possible to distinguish a number of quite definite sorts with certainty, and to ascertain that they were distinctly connected with the diseases in which they were found. It was further ascertained that one sort of bacteria was not transformed into another, and the remarks of old writers on leprosy and consumption, for instance, even justified the conclusion that, just as certain diseases, presumably caused by micro-organisms, had remained unchanged, their germs also must on the whole have retained their old qualities. Within certain limits, indeed deviations of demeanour had been observed in some bacteria, but that was the case among the higher plants too, without the varieties ceasing to belong to the species. The main gain of this period of research was the recognition of the fact that the thing was to discover as many morphological and biological qualities of a bacterium as possible, so as to be guarded against the danger of confounding various bacteria. There was still a danger of this with certain bacteria, the typhus and diphtheria bacilli for example, whereas it had been removed in the case of the tubercle and cholera bacilli by the very exact investigations of these organisms. In their case too, however, the bacillus must never be determined by one mark alone. He had experienced this in his own case, having for some time taken the bacillus of chicken cholera—for the special study of which he had not had material,—for a variety of the bacillus of Asiatic cholera, till a new series of experiments had convinced him of his error. Whether the germ of chicken cholera would have an injurious effect on human beings was still a question, and a question that would not easily be answered, as one could not well make direct experiments on human beings, but must wait to see whether the bacillus of chicken cholera would not one day appear in a human cholera patient. As to the etiological connection of the noxious bacteria with infectious diseases, general opinion was at first against it, and strict proof was necessary. It was necessary to prove in all cases that the disease and the micro-organism always appear together, that the micro-organism in question does not appear in any other disease, and that the micro-organism, propagated outside of the body through several generations, always produces the same disease if it gets into the body again. Now that the etiological connection had been proved in this manner in anthrax, tuberculosis, and erysipelas, and the resistance of opponents broken, one

might confine oneself in further cases to the two first lines of proof. This proof had still to be given in the case of abdominal typhus, ague, leprosy, diphtheria, and Asiastic cholera, but in the case of the latter it was already generally assumed that the cholera bacillus was the cause of cholera. As subjects of investigation for the immediate future Koch designated the question whether the pathogenic bacteria live only in the body or outside of it too, and in the latter case only occasionally get into the body and cause disease; also the manner of getting into the body, and their demeanour there. The next advance in bacteriology was the discovery of the poisons excreted by the bacteria, which were now regarded as the cause of death in fatal bacterial diseases, for the opinion that the white blood-corpuscles resist the bacteria was more and more losing ground. Koch then discussed the spore-formation of some bacteria, and the influences of air, warmth, moisture, and chemicals on bacteria. Direct sunlight quickly killed bacteria, the tubercle bacillus, for instance; even daylight produces the same effect, though more slowly. Cultivation of the tubercle bacillus, propagated for from five to seven days at a window, died. Moisture was necessary for the growth of bacteria; moisture, however, on the other hand, hindered their spreading. A bacterium never rose; its transmission took place only by the flying of dust, if it remained for some time capable of life in dry air. By means of improved staining methods some knowledge of the inner structure of bacteria had recently been gained; there seemed to be an inner nucleus of plasma with flagella proceeding from it. In certain infectious diseases—measles, scarlet fever, and small-pox, for instance,—the presence of a pathogenic bacterium had not yet been proved. In hydrophobia, influenza, whooping-cough, trachoma, yellow fever, cattle plague, and pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, also, no specific bacterium had been discovered, though the infectious nature of these diseases was evident. And perhaps these diseases were caused, not by bacteria, but by organic parasites belonging to quite another group of animated beings. In the blood of malaria patients protozoa had been found, which were now suspected of causing this and other infectious diseases. Whether protozoa, the lowest representatives of the animal world, really deserved this suspicion would have to be decided by a method analogous to bacteriological pure cultivation. But now there remained the question what had been the practical utility of all these extremely laborious investigations. The investigator, indeed, ought not to inquire after the immediate practical utility of his work; in the present case, however, the question was not entirely devoid of justification, Nor was it quite impossible to give it a satisfactory answer. Had not bacteriological investigation alone led to effective methods of disinfection? The value of water filtration, the question of the filtering qualities of the soil, of the fitness of surface water for use as drinking water, of the best method of constructing wells, the sterilisation of milk—so important especially for the nutrition of infants,—the investigation of the air in school-rooms and in sewers, the proof of the presence of pathogenic bacteria in the soil and in the air, were all bacteriological questions or conquests. The diagnosis of isolated cases of Asiatic cholera rendered timely preventive measures, the discovery of tubercle bacilli rendered timely therapeutic measures, possible. Besides these, indeed, only Pasteur's inoculations against hydrophobia, anthrax, symptomatic anthrax, and swine erysipelas remained to be mentioned, and the first of these probably did not belong to bacteriology at all, though they had grown on its soil. "But," concluded the Professor, "it will not always remain so. Therapeutics proper will also derive benefit from bacteriology, hardly, indeed, for diseases of rapid course, in which prevention will remain the main thing, but certainly for slow diseases such as tuberculosis.—*The Lancet.*

## ON RETENTION OF THE PLACENTA.

By M. Strebel, Freiburg.

The after-birth in the mare, sow, goat, and sheep ought to be expelled within three, and in the cow within six hours after the birth; a longer retention in the uterus is an abnormality. The abnormal retention of the placenta is very seldom seen in the mare; it is very rare also in the multiparous domestic animals, in which the envelopes of the last born, or at most the two last born, fœtuses may be retained. Retention of the after-birth is more frequent in the goat and the sheep, and it is very frequent in the cow. The disposition of the placenta in the different female domestic animals very well explains the differences observed in this respect.

*Causes of Non-expulsion of the After-birth.*—The proximate cause of the detachment of the placenta lies partly in the contractions of the uterus itself. Immediately after the birth of the fœtus the womb contracts, and to an important extent diminishes its capacity. Since the fœtal envelopes can shrink to only a slight extent and are not at all contractile, they cannot follow these contraction movements of the uterus. In proportion as the uterus contracts, the fœtal envelopes become wrinkled and folded together in its cavity. The relationship of the two contracting surfaces of the chorion and uterine mucous membrane changes from moment to moment. These surfaces glide on one another, and by this gliding movement the villi of the fœtal placenta becomes torn out of the follicles of the uterine mucous membrane. In this way, says Violet, the separation of the fœtal and maternal cotyledons is effected.

The strong contractions of the uterus, says Franck, bring about detachment of the placenta in most of our domestic animals immediately, in ruminants more mediately. In consequence of the extreme branching and strong development of the villus stems of the cotyledons in the cow, the connection of the fœtal with the maternal placenta is very intimate, and herein lies the chief cause of the frequent retention of the after-birth in the cow. The strong contraction of the uterus at the same time determines anæmia of the cotyledons, and this point appears to be an essential factor in placental detachment. Apparently in consequence of the anæmia, paralysis of the cotyledons sets in, and fatty degeneration of these will be favoured. Both factors, says Franck, contribute to the detachment of the placenta.

According to these two theories, which supplement each other, and which doubtless are correct for the normal anatomical and physiological conditions, everything that causes a weakening of the uterine musculature must hinder placental detachment and, with that, the

expulsion of the envelopes. A weakening of the uterine musculature may be determined directly by any condition which produces over-distention of the uterus. Such conditions are :—Dropsy and emphysematous conditions of the envelopes, also dropsical calves, twin births (in the cow), and two large calves. It is peculiar that in twin births (in the cow) the envelopes of one fœtus are generally expelled, while those of the other are retained. The uterine musculature is indirectly weakened by all factors that weaken the organism as a whole. One of the chief factors of this nature is insufficient bad nourishment of the parent animal during pregnancy. Thus it is that retention of the placenta is especially frequently observed after wet summers, in which the fodder formed is poor in nutritive material, and may, moreover, be dried and brought in under very unfavourable conditions. Tedious, difficult labours, more or less marked exhaustion of the mother animal, and fatigue of the uterus thereby determined, form frequent causes of delayed expulsion of the envelopes. For the relaxed and much exhausted uterus, the retained placenta does not exert sufficient irritation to induce a new pain.

A further frequent cause of non-expulsion of the after-birth is inflammatory conditions of the uterus, determined by difficult labours and the consequent injuries to the uterus and genital passages. In the cow retention of the after-birth is especially frequent as a consequence of abortion, here indeed it is the rule. The retention of the placenta is almost regular in those cases in which abortion follows soon after the action of the cause. In such cases the fœtal and uterine placenta are still very firmly united. Certainly after normal births also a too intimate abnormal connection of single or of the majority of the fœtai placental villi with the cotyledons forms a frequent cause of delayed expulsion of the after-birth. Everyone who has had to do with the manual separation of the placenta in the cow knows with what great difficulty that operation is often associated, and that sometimes it cannot be effected without dangerous wounding of the cotyledons, and the production of more or less dangerous hæmorrhage. The changes, however, in the texture of these organs which determine this abnormal connection of the fœtal and uterine placentæ are not yet known.

*Operative Treatment.*—There are three methods of operating with a view to separating a retained placenta. The first mode of proceeding, which is empirical, thoroughly unpractical, and abortive, consists in hanging a more or less heavy body to the part of the after-birth depending from the vulva. This procedure, however, is to be proscribed, since it is almost ineffectual, and, moreover, annoys the animal for too long a time.

The second procedure consists in cautious pulling at the projecting part of the membranes. This traction may be carried out in two ways. According to the first way the depending fœtal envelopes are seized with two hands, and then gently pulled. When this procedure is executed with care, it is not attended with any untoward consequences, and in the mare, sow, and bitch it is generally successful. But in the mare the traction must never be strong, in order to avoid the danger of producing eversion of the uterus.

Or one fastens the end of the projecting part of the after-birth between any two rods of wood, presses these together, and by revolving the rods rolls on them the protruding part of the fœtal envelopes, close up to the vulva. With the arms firmly applied to the side of the chest, the operator now slowly but firmly pulls on the rods. In proportion as parts of the membranes appear, these are rolled around the sticks. In consequence of the irritation caused by traction on the fœtal envelopes, the animal soon begins to strain. But this straining (in the cow) need not cause the operator any uneasiness ; it is of direct assistance to him, since, through the uterine contractions thus brought about, the separation of the placenta will be promoted. One continues to pull at intervals so long as a detachment of the placenta can be made out, but as soon as a considerable resistance is is felt, when it is found that separation of the placenta no longer takes place, or when slight cracking sounds are heard—signs that the membranes are tearing—one must stop the traction, so as not to cause dangerous injury to the cotyledons. The traction of the membranes, which ought to be done with every care, and undertaken only by persons having a thorough knowledge, may, when necessary, be repeated two or three times daily.

*Direct or Manual Detachment.*—This method, which is already very old, consists, in the case of the mare, in the careful pulling of the chorionic villi out of the tubular, clustered, uterine follicles ; in the cow, in the detachment of the fœtel placenta from the cotyledons by means of the hand introduced into the uterus. Manual separation is the surest and quickest procedure, and when carefully carried out, and with a not too intimate pathological connection of the chorionic villi with the cotyledons (in the cow), it is devoid of danger.

Whereas in the mare removal of the retained placenta is indicated after the lapse of three or four hours, one ought not to be over hasty with manual separation of the after-birth in the cow, and as a rule this operation ought not to be proceeded with before the third day. While in the mare manual separation of the after-birth can be easily effected soon after the birth, in the cow during the first days after parturition, and with the still existing firm connection between the fœtal and uterine placentæ, detachment is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, since in some large cows the arm of the operator is not sufficiently long to reach the cotyledons situated in the depth of the horns. With a very intimate connection of the fœtal with the uterine placenta, separation in general cannot be effected without causing larger or smaller and more or less dangerous wounds of some of the cotyledons.

*Mode of Operating in the Cow.*—The cow is to be tied short ; an assistant pulls the tail aside, while a second, in case the animal should become restless on the introduction of the hand, seizes it by the horns and grips it by the nose. The operator carries the hand, well anointed with oil or fat, forward between the membranes and vaginal wall, as far as the mouth of the womb, and when necessary dilates the contracted uterine neck with the pointed wedge-shaped hand. As soon as the hand is introduced into the uterus, one proceeds in the following manner to the separation of the fœtal placenta from the cotyledons, beginning with those lying nearest. With the fore and middle fingers one embraces the stalk of the cotyledons, and detaches the fœtal placenta from its edges. When the fœtal placenta is already somewhat separated or distinctly loosened, one immediately, and indeed with comparative ease, detaches it by pressing with the thumb. On the other hand, if there is still a complete and intimate connection between the fœtal and uterine placenta, one presses the cotyledon lightly between the thumb and the fingers encircling its stalk, increasing the pressure in cases requiring it (with very firm connection), while with the thumb and other fingers one executes a circular movement, similar, as Violet correctly expresses it, to that of unbuttoning a dress. In consequence of this pressure and the movement of the fingers, the cotyledon turns a little round, and the connection of the fœtal with the uterine placenta is thereby distinctly loosened. With the point of the thumb and the index finger, one now detaches the placenta at its marginal part, this generally being easily effected, and then, by pushing the thumb and index finger under the separated part of the fœtal placenta, detaches a third or a half of the fœtal cotyledon. Com-

plete separation is now effected, partly by pulling the chorionic villi from the cotyledon with the fore finger, partly by stripping with the thumb. The free hand during these operations pulls with gentle traction on the portion of the membranes hanging from the vulva, a proceeding which distinctly facilitates the removal. In this way detachment is proceeded with, passing from cotyledon to cotyledon. The operation is thus, upon the whole, an irksome affair, which may require thirty, forty, or fifty minutes.

In proportion as the hand penetrates deeper into the horn, the reaching of the cotyledons and the detachment of the placenta become more difficult. By gentle traction on the detached membranes, which is best done with the hand operating in the uterus, one attempts to bring the most remote cotyledons nearer and within reach of the hand. When this is done carefully, there is no danger of invaginating the horn. Not rarely, especially in large cows, some cotyledons remain beyond reach, and the detachment of the placenta must then be left to nature.

Another new direct method of detachment of the after-birth is that of Fried. Fried prepares a large quantity of weak carbolised water at 30° C. This water he uses, in the first piace, in the form of a jet delivered through a caoutchouc tube, to purify the genital passages. One then tries to localise the mouth of the tube so as to introduce the jet between the fœtal envelopes and the uterine walls. At the same time, by pulling the umbilical cord with the hand, the membranes are stretched, so as to favour the entrance of the jet of water between the membranes and the uterine wall. The irrigation of the chorion must be periodically interrupted for a few minutes, and thus the bursting of the membranes under the strong distension of the water pressure is avoided, whereby a further detachment by this method would be frustrated. By repeating several times the irrigation of the uterine walls and the membranes by the jet of water thus introduced, the fœtal envelopes, according to Fried, can after a certain time (frequently after twenty minutes) be easily pulled out of the uterus by the umbilical cord. The method of detachment is, without doubt, successful in cases of loose connection of the chorionic villi with the cotyledons, but here, indeed, it affords no advantage worthy of mention over manual detachment.

The early manual removal of the after birth is especially indicated where there exists wounds of the genital passages, in order thereby to prevent resorption of putrid septic matters through the wounded parts.

When separation of the after-birth has been effected, the value of a good irrigation of the uterine cavity with lukewarm water, or still better, with slightly carbolised or creolinised water, is not to be under-estimated.

*Procedure in the Mare.*—While the operator, as in the case of the cow, tenses by slight traction with the left hand the portion of the membranes hanging out of the vulva, he passes the right hand into the vagina and uterus as far as the place where the fœtal placenta is united to the uterine walls. Two conditions may exist: either a larger or smaller portion of the chorion is already separated, or this is still everywhere united to the uterine walls. In former case the detachment of the placenta is an easy task. While pulling gently, in the manner indicated, on the free part of the membranes, one progressively strips off the chorion from the uterine walls, partly by a rotatory movement and gentle pressure with the slightly arched right hand, partly by pressure with the thumb on the free fœtal placenta. By means of these gentle, simple manipulations the after-birth soon becomes detached.

The matter does not proceed so easily and quickly when no (partial) separation of the after-birth has yet taken place, and when the connection between the fœtal and the uterine placenta is still more or less intimate. In such cases one proceeds in the following manner:—While the left hand holds the projecting string of membranes on the stretch, one commences to cautiously detach the chorion from the upper wall of the uterus, by exerting a gentle but sufficiently energetic pressure with the points of the united fingers of the right hand, sometimes against the wall of the uterus, sometimes on the (free) membranes. As soon as the chorion is detached at the one place, one separates its first part in its entire circumference, by gently insinuating the hand alternately to the right and the left between the chorion and the uterine wall. The umbilical cord being kept gently but firmly stretched, one then successively strips off the chorion from the uterine wall, partly by pressing together the detached membranes by grasping them with the hand, partly by exerting a pressure in the opposite direction with the back of the hand on the wall of the uterus. The futher forward one proceeds,the easier, as a rule, becomes the separation of the membranes.

*Medicinal Treatment.*—This consists partly in the internal administration, partly in the local application, of medicinal substances.

The internal administration of medicines for the purpose of bringing about expulsion of the after-birth is very uncertain in action. Very little reliance is to be placed on any of the medicinal substances hitherto recommended and employed, such as savin, ergot. rue leaves, laurel, juniper, carbonate of potash, and the bicarbonate of soda. In the very great majority of cases, the administration of these does not promote the expulsion of the after-birth, and they may, on the contrary, in consequence of their irritant action on the uterus, aggravate the condition.

On the other hand, local, especially antiseptic, treatment affords very good service. This consists in the thorough washing out of the organ by introducing into it larges quantities of warm water, either simple or mixed with antiseptic substances, by means of a long caoutchouc tube. The introduction of large quantities of warm water (30 C.) determines weak uterine contractions, in consequence of which a great part of the fluid is expelled. These uterine contractions and the warm irrigation of the placenta loosen the connection of the latter. Repeated abundant introduction of warm water very frquently brings about detachment of the membranes in a short time. It is useful at first to add antiseptic substances to the warm water, in order to retard decomposition of the membranes, and thus to prevent the danger of infection on the part of the mother animal. Mayer recommends the twice daily introduction of ten litres of carbolised water; the after-birth is expelled in two days. But it is when the membranec have begun to putrefy, or when purulent or putrid fluids have collected in the uterus, that washing out of the uterus with antiseptics and disinfectants is especially indicated. For such purposes, one takes 1 per cent. carbolised or creolinised water, weak watery solutions of chloride of lime, 3—4 per cent. boracic acid solutions, or a one fifth per thousand solution of sublimate. On account of the strong poisonous properties of sublimate for cattle, the use of sublimate solutions is not recommended. As experience has taught, cases of poisoning may occur when, in washing out the uterus with sublimate water, a large quantity of the liquid remains in the organ, or when wounds of the uterine mucous membrane exist. On the other hand, creolin, which has been made known to veterinary surgeons and introduced into the thereapeutics of the disease of the domestic animals chiefly by Froh. er and Albrecht, is very appropriate for such washing out of the uterus, on account of its antiseptic, disinfectant, and deodorising properties, and from its being devoid of danger. One thus washes out the uterus and

the genital passages thrice daily, continuing this according to necessity.

In two years I have treated at least 150 cows for retention of the after-birth by washing out the uterus with creolin water, and with entirely satisfactory results. Creolin is preferable to carbolic acid, especially on account of its being easily and thoroughly miscible with water. Before carbolic acid was known, I used with good results, as a disinfectant medium for the uterus, weak solutions of chloride of lime.

Except in the presence of wounds of the genital passages, where the manual removal of the retained placenta is clearly indicated, the early application of local antiseptic treatment is, in my experience, preferable to manual separation.

When putrefaction of the retained membranes has set in, with a fetid discharge from the vulva, the veterinary practitioner who wishes to manually remove the afterbirth must not omit to thoroughly disinfect the uterine contents, in order to as far as possible protect himself from a great danger of infection.

### Blundering with the Pleuro Acts.

The duties of travelling inspectors, it would seem, do not call for any veterinary or other skill of any consequence. Now, if these duties can be performed by anyone, whether, as Mr. Chaplin said, he knows a horse from a cow or not, there was surely no excuse for wasting the public money, by placing such work in the hands of some artillery and naval officers who are to draw big salaries for it, and come down at great cost from London, like so many ambassadors, to do what a local buteder could have done equally well at a twentieth part of the cost. Surely the local veterinary inspector or the clerk to the local authority could have done the work equally well at a fraction of the cost, but that, of course, would not dovetail with the plan of providing from the public funds a host of nice places for place-hunters, who have claims upon Ministers.—*North British Agriculturist.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE CODE.
### R.I.P.

DEAR SIR,

Before taking my melancholy farewell of the Code, allow me to say a few words in reply to the somewhat scant comment that has been made on the subject.

With most of what you say Sir—July 12th, I entirely agree, and only take exception to the first remark of your article, as to the practice of horse-dealing being "hardly a question of Veterinary Ethics." I think it very much a question, and you certainly give it its due when you say "it occupies a *lower* grade"; the honesty of any *legitimate* calling is not the question; Honesty, Ethics, Morality, have much the same meaning, and I contend that it is *not* moral to do that which is more likely to bring discredit on the *whole* profession; and the man who risks it merely for his own selfish ends thinks nothing of, and deserves nothing from, the dignity of his calling; and will, in at least a professional sense, sink "unloved, unhonored, and unsung."

But where are those who should answer my query? Is it guilt or apathy that prevents them giving their assent to a Code? At least one has had the manliness to back his opinions, and I much regret that a man who has evidently had much experience and appears to be above the average practitioner should possess so little *esprit de corps* as to find it—well—expedient to fill up the "aching void" which might be so well employed in higher study, by practices unbecoming a professional *gentlemen. Chacun à son gôut.* We must leave him to his own reflections, which seems to be complacent, and remark with him, "silk purses are not made of sows' ears." As to his reference to the noble cab-owners, are they nobler by their trade? or does it concern us that they waste their substance and prostitute their position in society, under the guise of a fashionable amusement? But I fear it is of little avail attempting to win over such an one to the Ethical side, as with him "money answereth *all* things" (?)

I thank my younger critics for their remarks—all honor to them—and as we can only hope that the profession may be purged by the next generation, we shall look to our younger brethren to bring about, by some sacrifice (for no real good was ever done without) those reforms which our richer and older members seem content to allow to remain in abeyance. "Practical" writes much sound sense; it is not well that we should stand too much on our dignity, but I cannot help thinking that a V.S. *may* dress as a gentleman, and that "Practical's" description of the "rough Irish bullock, &c. is a little overdrawn; but if it be not so, why should we undertake to do such manual labour, at great risk to life and limb, without proper assistance? to say nothing of the operator's hand being steady—not shaking from the effects of muscular violence. Here again, while not advocating any ideas of efficiency, I would submit that it is not dignified for a practitioner to be hauling and pulling at an animal on which he is about to perform a scientific operation; and were we *all* to insist on being supplied with the proper assistance, farmers would soon come to the conclusion that we were (if competent) none the worse for being *particular;* the world is being educated, why not they? I fear I have trespassed too much on your space, because I feel that unless apathy or self-accusation have hindered criticism, the small repute of your correspondent has been the cause, but *nil desperandum*, and in spite of my dirge, I may still live to see the conduct of our noble profession such as shall enable it to take its proper place in Society.

HENRY DYER.

### THE NEW PLEURO. REGULATIONS.

SIR,

As a member of the profession and an Inspector I reciprocate the feelings you express in your editorial, but I do not think it will do much good to object. Suppose I refuse to examine and report upon an outbreak of disease in a cowshed; I have many neighbours who will gladly do the work I decline. I am in hope also that I shall not lose so much as you suggest. I understood Mr. Chaplin to say a V.S. would be called in to diagnose the case, send the lungs to London *and superintend the slaughter.* If so I shall be paid as before—only by the Central instead of the Local Authority. I rather prefer sending the lungs to London in every case instead of having to do so occasionally when neighbouring practitioners are not of the same opinion as myself. The new course lessens my responsibility and removes a source of friction between me and other practitioners. The lungs are sent to Camden Town College but only for convenience—not because it is a school. The lungs will be examined not by teachers but by Board of Agriculture advisers. This arrangement seemed at first sight rather a slight to the Scotch Schools but is really only fair. The Central Authority is now entirely responsible, and should have full power to form their own opinion. I offer no defence of the "Naval Officers" as Inspectors. Our political arrangements are very good but they are not yet free from jobbery. These men will get about £500 a year for work which ought to have cost £2 a week.

"A VETERINARY INSPECTOR."